#3
[原作] あさのあつこ
[漫画] 木乃ひのき
N.O.6
[ナンバーシックス]
講談社

NO.6

ナンバーシックス

#3

[原作] あさのあつこ

[漫画] 木乃ひのき

NO.6

#3

8 冥府の天使 …… 6

9 美しいものたちは… …… 44

10 密やかな危機 …… 80

11 果てなる地 …… 119

あとがき …… 156

NO.6 ［ナンバーシックス］ #3

［原作］あさのあつこ
(YA! ENTERTAINMENT)
［漫画］木乃ひのき

「NO.6」2巻、9/7発売!

木乃ひのき先生&アニメ「NO.6」原画展開催決定!!

〈全国〉SHIBUYA TSUTAYA

※詳細はRIAホームページ
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これが僕たちの青春だ!!

［ナンバーシックス］

NO.6

第8話

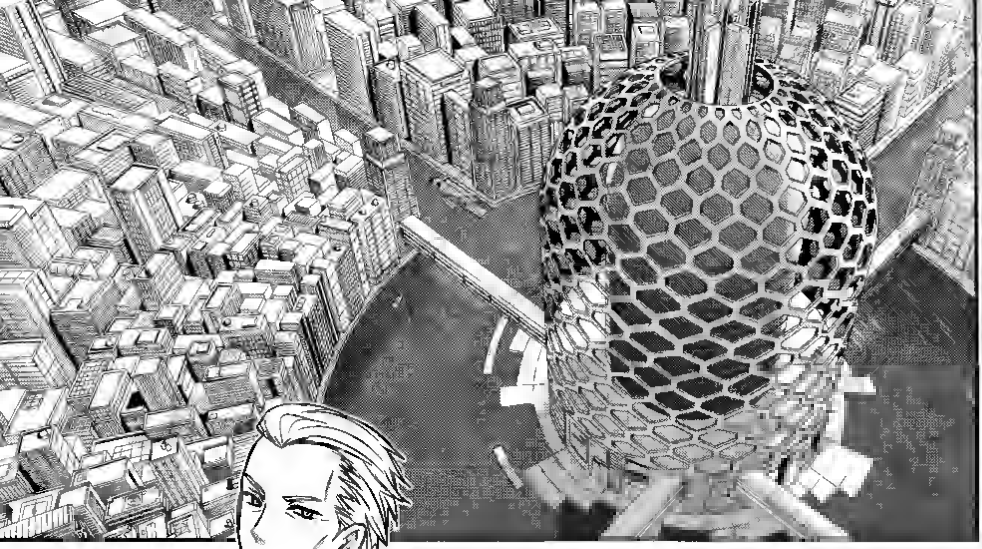
［原作］あさのあつこ
(YA! ENTERTAINMENT/講談社)

［漫画］木乃ひのき

テレビアニメ大ヒット放送中!

フジテレビ"ノイタミナ"ほかにて
毎週木曜25:15～放送!

関西テレビ、東海テレビ、さくらんぼテ



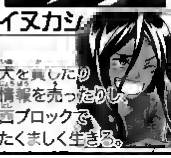
Two men survey their city, No.6, from the city hall 'Moondrop'.

CHARACTERS キャラクターズ

沙布さふ
紫苑に恋心を抱く幼なじみ。

ネズミ
4年前、クロノスで紫苑に助けられた。矯正施設から逃走した凶悪犯罪者？

火藍からん
紫苑の母。



イヌカシ

丁ちょう
怪しい仕事を営む元新聞記者。

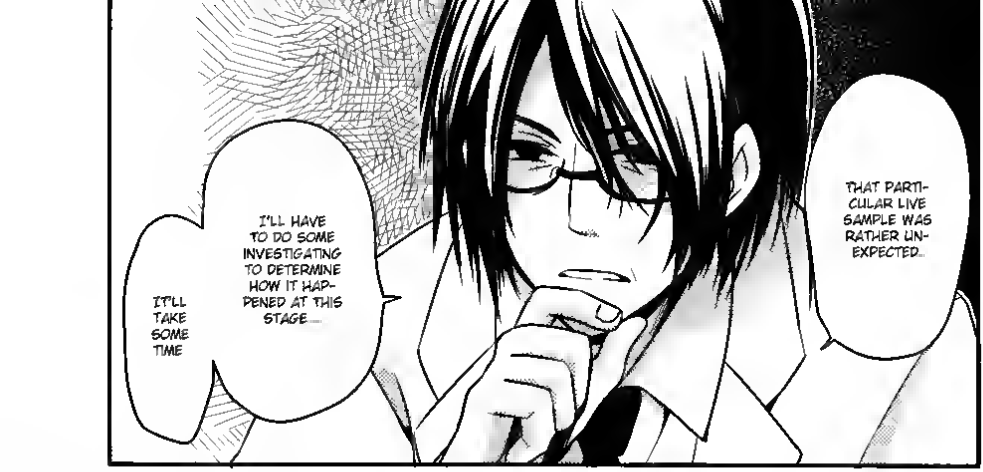
天を貫いたり情報を売ったりしてBブロックでたくましく生きる。

紫苑しおん
エーリアンズの動労学生⇒現在、西ブロックに逆走、潜伏中。

STORY ストーリー

◎紫苑は聖都市NO.6の元エリート動労学生。ハチが死体を食い破って出てくるという事件で、治安局に殺人の疑いをかけられ連行されるところを、4年前別れたきりのネズミに助けられた。
◎壁の向こうの街・西ブロックに逃げ延びるか、紫苑は突然の激痛で生死の境をさまよう。切開箇所からは、ハチのさなぎが出てきたのだった。
◎母から届いた手がかりを求めて出かけた先で、力河という元新聞記者に出会う。そこで紫苑は、聖都市・NO.6の恐ろしい裏の顔を聞かされる。
◎一方、NO.6では、突然の祖母の死で、沙布が留学先から帰り、紫苑の事件を耳にしていた。

BACTERIA, GERMS, NEURONS, MACROPHAGES, VIRUSES. THOUGH I SUPPOSE VIRUSES WOULD BE ON THE NANO SCALE.
THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL.
TRULY BEAUTIFUL THINGS CANNOT BE VIEWED WITH THE NAKED EYE
YOU CAN ONLY SEE THEM USING AN ELECTRON MICROSCOPE
YOU'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT WAY; SINCE OUR YOUTH, EVEN.
I'M STEADFAST, IF NOTHING.
SO, WHAT SHALL WE DO, NOW?
FOR SAMPLE RETRIEVAL.
ISN'T IT ABOUT THAT TIME AGAIN?
LIVING SAMPLE RETRIEVAL.


THAT PARTICULAR LIVE SAMPLE WAS RATHER UNEXPECTED...
I'LL HAVE TO DO SOME INVESTIGATING TO DETERMINE HOW IT HAPPENED AT THIS STAGE...
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME

IT'S JUST ONE MEASLY RODENT.
I DON'T EXPECT THERE TO BE ANY ISSUES...

BUT--ARE YOU SURE THAT'S ALL RIGHT?
WHY WOULDN'T IT BE?
RETRIEVING THAT LIVE SAMPLE ISN'T IT WITH THE RAT?

THEN HAVE THEM BROUGHT BACK TOGETHER.
ALIVE
I'M QUITE INTERESTED IN THE RAT
YOU WANT TO DISSECT HIM, THEN?
THAT DOES SOUND NICE! I COULD STUDY HIM FROM STEM TO STERN...

pace
pace
SHALL I HAVE ANOTHER LIVE SAMPLE PREPARED, THEN?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH, FENNEC!
OUR ABSOLUTE NUMBERS OF OBTAINED SAMPLES JUST AREN'T SUFFICIENT...
...BUT BEFORE THAT, WE NEED MORE SAMPLES.

THOUGH IT SEEMS THE LIKELIHOOD OF FAILURE IS RATHER HIGH
LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT.
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE OUR PREPARATIONS QUICKLY...
I THINK A FEMALE WILL BE NICE THIS TIME...
WE'RE AT A RATHER DIFFICULT STAGE

THE FINAL PIECE... THAT WILL ALLOW THIS CITY TO BECOME A TRULY HOLY CITY!
IT'LL BE FINE!
WE NEED BUT OVERCOME OUR FAILURES AND THEN WE CAN OBTAIN THE FINAL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE!
PROGRESS REQUIRES FAILURE AND SACRIFICES, THOUGH!

HEH, HERE'S TO LEADERS DESTINED FOR GREATNESS!
...AND TO THEIR EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE INTELLECT!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING HERE?
YOU WEREN'T RAISED HERE, RIGHT?
WHERE WERE YOU BORN...?
Ah!

AH... I'M SORRY

frozen

IF YOU PLAN ON HANGING AROUND FOR A WHILE,
DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR NOSINESS

IT'S PISSING ME OFF HOW YOU HAVE TO STICK YOUR NOSE INTO ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING...
I'M NOT BEING NOSY!
I WAS JUST CURIOUS IS ALL!
THAT'S CALLED BEING NOSY!
Get it through your head!!

BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, AND I WANT TO!
GRAB
I WOULDN'T SAY I WANTED TO KNOW SOMETHING I DIDN'T THINK I NEEDED TO!
BUT I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU!
...SHION
HAVE YOU BEEN READING SOME CHEESY ROMANCE NOVELS?
NO...?
.....
...IT'S JUST, I DON'T KNOW A SINGLE THING ABOUT YOU.
yank
...FINE THEN, I'LL TEACH YOU.

AND ALSO...
I GUESS A MAN'S CHEST?
IT'S HARD AND FLAT
FEEL...?
YEAH YEAH.
SORRY I DON'T HAVE BIG BOOBS.
WHAT ELSE?
WHAT DO YOU FEEL?
badump
badump
BUT-- THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED! YOU'RE ALIVE!
EXACTLY THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
WHAT MORE COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT TO KNOW?
MY HEART'S BEATING LIKE IT SHOULD BE, RIGHT?
AND I FELT WARM, TOO

WELL, LIKE I SAID, I JUST--
WHAT YOU WANT IS INFORMATION
MY BIRTHDATE, HOW I WAS RAISED, HEIGHT AND WEIGHT, MY IQ--ALL BITS OF INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN ATTACH A VALUE TO.
YOU REFUSE TO TRY AND LEARN ABOUT SOMEONE WITHOUT RELYING ON HARD DATA.
YOU... YOU'RE SARCASTIC AND YOU LIKE TO MOCK OTHERS, AND YOU HATE SEAFOOD AND HAVE BAD SLEEPING HABITS.
CLENCH
HUH?
YOU'RE WELL-READ AND HAVE AN EXTENSIVE INTELLECT, BUT YOU'RE COMPLETELY UNORGANIZED!
YOU'RE MOODY AND EVEN THOUGH YOU SEEM NEUROTIC, YOU'RE ACTUALLY REALLY SLOPPY!
YOU LIKE YOUR SOUP SCALDING, AND IF I MESS UP THE SALT CONTENT EVEN A LITTLE, YOU GET SUPER PISSY!
AND LAST NIGHT, YOU KICKED ME OUT OF BED 3 TIMES IN YOUR SLEEP!
HEY-- SHION, NOW WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE!

I'M NOT TRYING TO ATTACH A VALUE TO YOU!
I'VE LEARNED ALL THAT SINCE COMING HERE!

WHY NOT?

...YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO INVOLVED WITH OTHER PEOPLE

...WHY DO WE HAVE TO BECOME ENEMIES?
THAT'S A STRANGE THING TO CONSIDER.

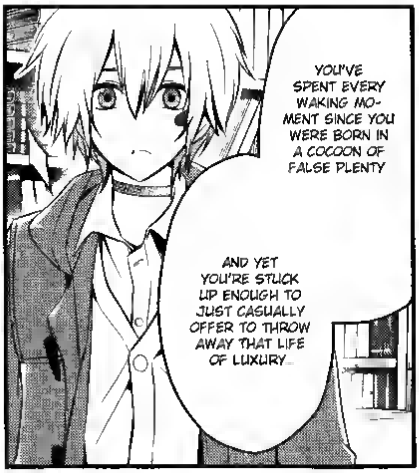
THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE ATTACHED YOU'LL GET.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PRETEND, LIKE YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.
...AND WHEN YOU BECOME ENEMIES, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KILL THEM.

YOU THINK?
SEEMS PRETTY LIKELY TO ME.
...EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO TURN BACK TIME, I'D NEVER WISH TO GO BACK TO BEFORE
I'LL NEVER WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND PLENTY KNOWING IT'S NOTHING BUT A FALSE, SURFACE-ONLY WORLD.
I DON'T CARE WHAT SORT OF PLACE THIS IS. I WANT TO LIVE HERE.
AND WHY IS THAT?

HUH?
I'M DRAWN TO YOU.

GREATLY SO
I CAN'T REALLY PUT IT INTO WORDS, BUT... I'M DRAWN TO YOU
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME THINGS NO ONE EVER TAUGHT ME BEFORE
YOU KNOW THINGS I DON'T

YOUR VOCABULARY IS LESS DEVELOPED THAN A CHIMPANZEE'S
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T MAKE FUN OF CHIMPANZEES LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW, SHION.
SIIIIIGH...
THIS HAS BEEN BUGGING ME FOR A WHILE, BUT...
ARGH!
Forget it!
THE LONGER I TALK WITH YOU, THE CRAZIER IT MAKES ME.
THEN WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME SAY?
'I LOVE YOU'?
I'M CALLING YOU AN IDIOT, IDIOT!
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE 'I'M DRAWN TO YOU' SO EASILY. THOSE WORDS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, PRECIOUS WORDS!
BUT THAT'S ALL IT IS
YOU'RE NOT DRAWN TO ME, AND YOU'RE NOT IN LOVE WITH ME.
SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE THE LIKES OF WHOM YOU'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE, YOU'RE JUST ANTSY FROM ALL THE CURIOSITY AND EXPECTATION
YOU JUST LIKE UNUSUAL THINGS!


YOU'VE SPENT EVERY WAKING MOMENT SINCE YOU WERE BORN IN A COCOON OF FALSE PLENTY
AND YET YOU'RE STUCK UP ENOUGH TO JUST CASUALLY OFFER TO THROW AWAY THAT LIFE OF LUXURY...

I DON'T TRUST YOU.

WHEN YOU WORKED AS A SUPERINTENDANT AT THAT PARK, YOU TOOK AN OATH EVERY MORNING, RIGHT?
YEAH.
AND YOU HATED IT, RIGHT?
I DID...
IT FELT SUFFOCATING, HAVING YOUR LOYALTY FORCED LIKE THAT, HUH?

YOU SAT THERE, COOL AND CALM, AND SPOKE THOSE MEANINGLESS WORDS WITH NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TRUST IN ANYTHING YOU SAY

...BUT STILL YOU ENDURED
clench

... DID I HURT YOUR FEELINGS?

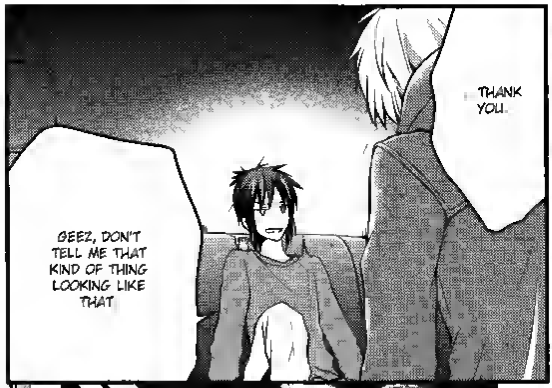
QUITE A BIT.

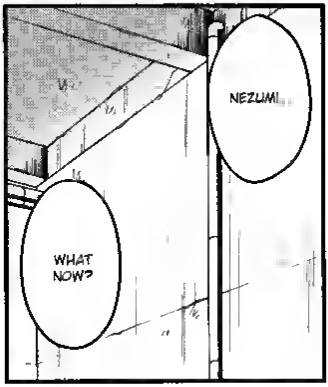
YOU KNOW,
IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE YOU OR RESENT YOU OR ANYTHING
YEAH, THAT MUCH I UNDERSTAND

SHION.

YOU'LL TRY AND SEND IT TO HER?!
THIS LITTLE GUY SAYS HE WANTS TO TRY SOME OF HER BREAD

WRITE A LETTER.
FOR YOUR MAMA IS CHARACTERS OR LESS
THOUGH I CAN'T PROMISE IT'LL ACTUALLY GET TO HER.


THANK YOU.
GEEZ, DON'T TELL ME THAT KIND OF THING LOOKING LIKE THAT

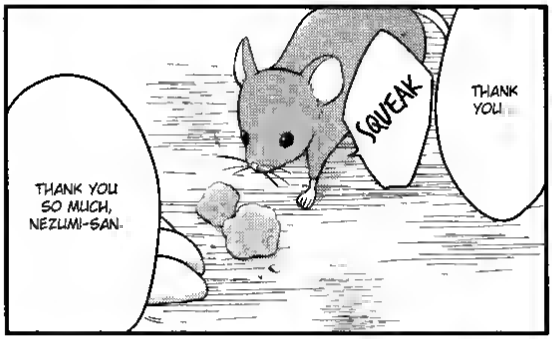

NEZUMI.
WHAT NOW?

I just can't forget my mother

It creeps me out!
No matter how much he tells me to cast everything aside

EATING YOUR CAKE MAKES ME HAPPY!
I'D HATE TO NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT YOUR GRAPE BREAD AGAIN!
PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY ONE OF MY FEW LUXURIES, KARIN-SAN!
YOU'RE A BAKER, AREN'T YOU? NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE BAKING!
EVERY-ONE'S WAIT-ING FOR THAT SCENT OF BREAD TO WAFT DOWN THE STREET IN THE MOR-NING!
YOU'RE BACK!
SQUEAK
Mom, I'm sorry. I'm doing fine.

Shion...
NOT IN THE LEAST.
MOM, IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M NOT UN-HAPPY.
Mom, I'm sorry. I'm doing fine.


THANK YOU SO MUCH, NEZUMI-SAN.
SQUEAK
THANK YOU!

RATTLE RATTLE
OF COURSE YOU'RE WELCOME TO SOME AS WELL!
AND TELL HIM TO COME AND HAVE SOME BREAD SOMETIME
COULD YOU LET HIM KNOW HOW THANK-FUL I AM?
IS HE YOUR MASTER?

I'll make this the last time I cry
The next time...? will be when I hold you in my arms again.

Don't tell me they're here to confiscate this letter...?
squeeze
EXCUSE ME..?
...The security bureau?
shock
OH DEAR, SAFU!
IT'S BEEN SOME TIME, MA'AM.
EXCUSE ME, IS ANYONE IN TODAY?
BEEP
BLIND
CLOSE
OPE

IT REALLY HAS BEEN YEARS.
YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BEAUTIFUL!
YOU SURPRISED ME!
BUT--WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE STUDYING ABROAD IN ANOTHER CITY?

SAFU, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
YOU HAVE ALL MY SYMPATHY.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

MY GRANDMOTHER PASSED AWAY, SO I CAME BACK.
I GOT THE NEWS ONLY SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVING.
YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

THERE IS
I CAME HERE BECAUSE I NEED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
PLEASE TELL ME WHERE SHION IS.

PLEASE TELL ME! HE'S ALIVE, ISN'T HE?
HE ISN'T IMPRISONED IN THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, RIGHT?
WHERE IS HE LIVING NOW?
SAFU...SO YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT SHION, THEN?
ONLY AS MUCH AS HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC BY THE OFFICIALS.
...WHICH MAY AS WELL BE NOTHING.
IT'S NOT TRUE IS IT? IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE...
HE WASN'T UNSTABLE AND HE DIDN'T HATE ANYONE!
I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS OR MICROPHONES IN THIS STOREROOM.
...THOUGH I CAN'T BE SURE IT'S ENTIRELY SAFE.
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE UNDER SURVEILLANCE... MEANS SHION HASN'T BEEN CAPTURED YET, RIGHT?

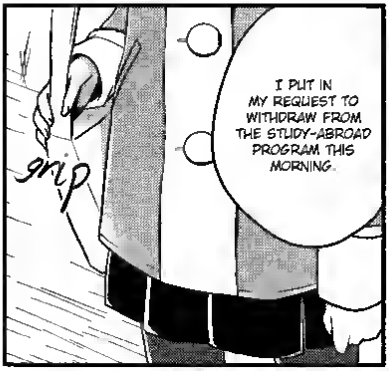
MA'AM, PLEASE WHERE IS SHION?
...WEST BLOCK... THAT'S ALL I KNOW
WAIT--WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
WEST BLOCK... I SEE
I'M GOING TO FIND HIM.
SAFU, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I DON'T
DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT SORT OF A PLACE WEST BLOCK IS?!
THOUGH I'VE HEARD IT'S A HORRIBLE PLACE...
STILL, I INTEND TO GO

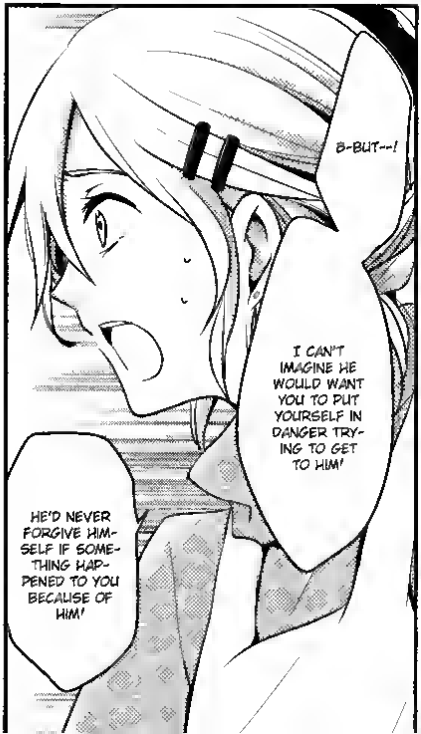
BUT--BUT, YOU'RE...
WHILE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE, COMING BACK WILL BE...
I'M FINE WITH THAT.
I DON'T CARE IF I'M NEVER ABLE TO RETURN.
IF SHION IS IN WEST BLOCK, THEN I'M GOING.
I WANT TO SEE HIM
I WANT TO, SO BADLY.
squeeze
THANK YOU, SAFU.
I THOUGHT... THAT I'D HAVE TO BEAR THIS ALONE...
BUT I FORGOT ABOUT YOU!

I JUST WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE...!
I...I LOVE HIM.
I KNOW HE'LL BE BACK.
HE'S NOT NEARLY AS WEAK AS HE MAY SEEM.
SO PLEASE, JUST WAIT!
SAFU... CAN'T YOU PLEASE JUST TRUST IN HIM?
EH?
hug

SAFU...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.
I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND DOING NOTHING

I'M AFRAID...
...THAT I'M NO GOOD AT WAITING.


I PUT IN MY REQUEST TO WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAM THIS MORNING.
grip

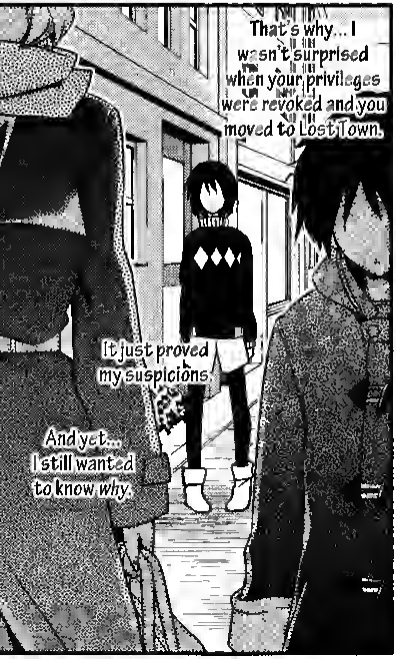

B-BUT--!
I CAN'T IMAGINE HE WOULD WANT YOU TO PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER TRYING TO GET TO HIM!
HE'D NEVER FORGIVE HIMSELF IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU BECAUSE OF HIM!

SO... I'M GOING!
I'M GOING TO FIND SHION!

SO...
SHION'S FEELINGS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
IT'S UN-BEARABLE HOW MUCH I MISS HIM.
SO I HAVE TO GO!
THAT'S ALL...
EH?
I'M SELFISH, EXTREMELY SO
MA'AM, MAY I ASK YOU ONE MORE THING?
I SUP-POSE...
WHO'S WITH HIM RIGHT NOW?
IF...IF FOR SOME REASON HE NEVER COMES BACK...
...THEN I'LL BE THE ONE REGRETTING IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

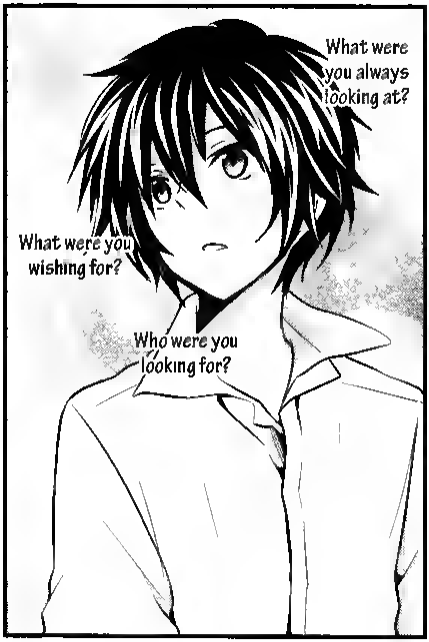
'NEZUMI'?
NEZUMI I SUPPOSE?
YES, NEZUMI THAT'S ALL I KNOW
NEXT TIME-- NEXT TIME, COME IN THE MORNING
MORNING?
...I'M GLAD I GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MA'AM.
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO BAKE BREAD!
OH! HOW ABOUT YOU HELP ME OUT AROUND HERE, IF YOU LIKE?
YES! I DO MY BAKING FROM DAWN TO MID-DAY!

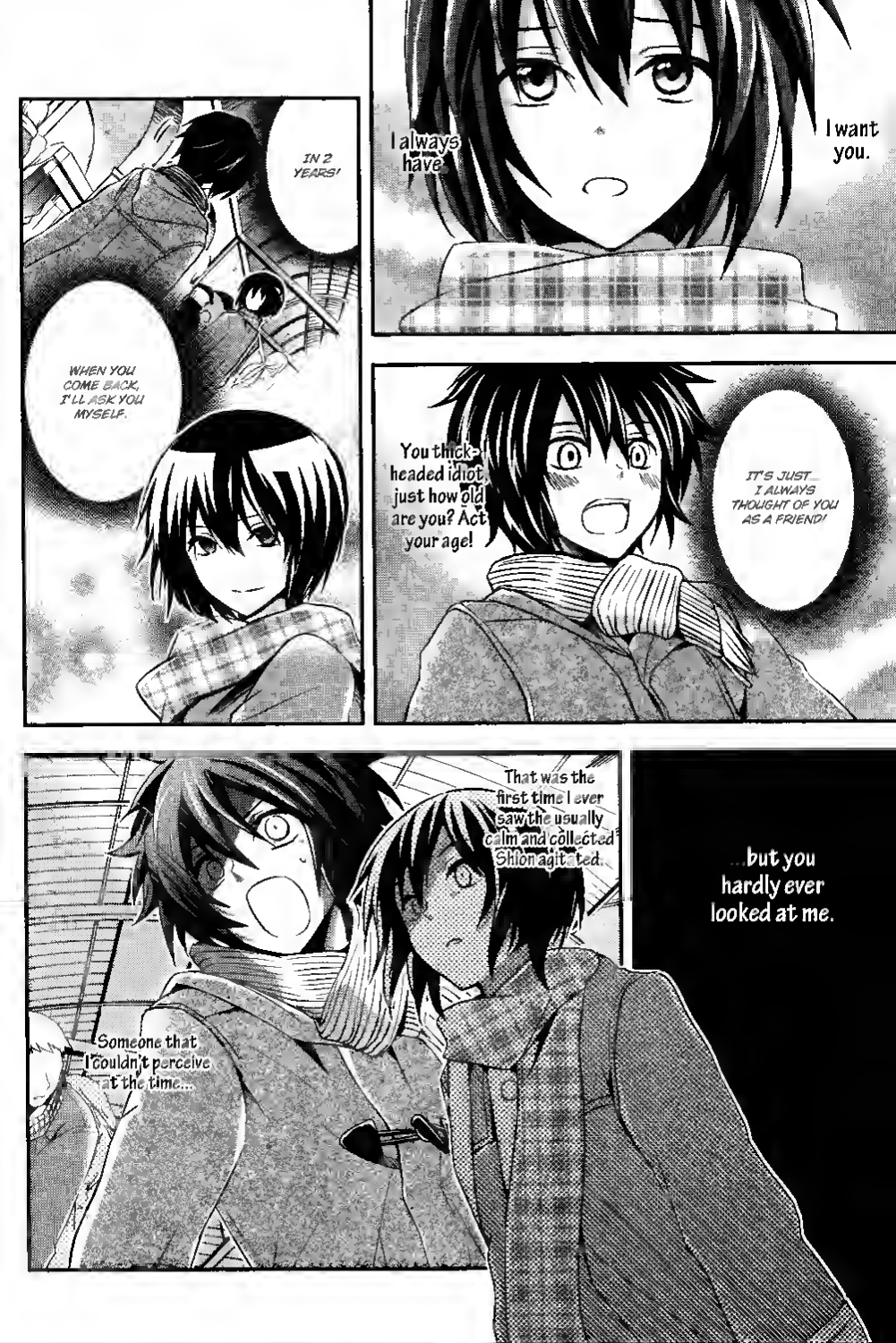
I HOPE I CAN TRY ONE OF YOUR FRESH-BAKED MUFFINS SOME DAY.
GOOD-BYE
...THANK YOU, MA'AM.
THAT'S A REALLY CUTE SWEATER!
I FEEL WARM JUST LOOKING AT IT!
...you were a strange person.
Shion...


That's why... I wasn't surprised when your privileges were revoked and you moved to Lost Town.
It just proved my suspicions.
And yet... I still wanted to know why.

That's why I always suspected you'd wind up walking a different path from us some day.
...that you'd freely cast aside and leave behind those things that we'd been taught were important and to which we'd clung so fiercely.

Stop gazing off into the distance...
...and look at me, right here in front of you.

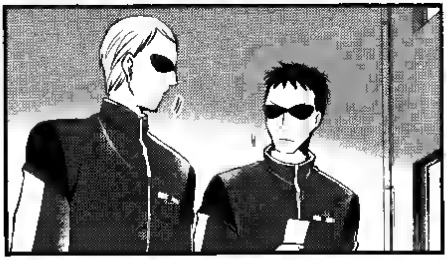

What were you always looking at?
What were you wishing for?
Who were you looking for?


I always have
I want you.
IN 2 YEARS!
WHEN YOU COME BACK, I'LL ASK YOU MYSELF.
You thick-headed idiot, just how old are you? Act your age!
IT'S JUST... I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS A FRIEND!
That was the first time I ever saw the usually calm and collected Shion agitated.
...but you hardly ever looked at me.
Someone that I couldn't perceive at the time...

What sort of person are they?
Who were they...?
NEZUMI I SUPPOSE?
NEZUMI!!
..Nezumi.
ARE YOU SAFU-SAN?
And if I recall correctly, there was a rat back then...

YES...
Security bureau officials...?
COULD WE SEE YOUR I D CARD?

NO!!
PLEASE GET IN THE CAR.
LET GO!!



EH?!
grab
I'M SORRY, BUT WE'LL NEED YOU TO COME TO THE SECURITY BUREAU WITH US
grab

STOP IT!!
WHY ARE YOU RESTRAINING ME?!
TELL ME!!
YOU'LL KNOW IF YOU COME
I UNDERSTAND...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR VIOLENCE
trip
AH!
SLAM
I've got to get away!

If they catch me... I'll never see Shion again.
SFX. SLAM
No...
Don't come!
Ma'am, please...
Don't come over here...!

SFX: STRIKE
roll
CLICK
Save me!!
No!!
SFX: SLAP
grab
Stop!!
grab
faint
Save me...!!
Shion...!
Will Safu's cry reach Shion...?!
ARIA 11巻 9月28日 発売!
つづく

september.strawberryline.org

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Editing: fencer-x@livejournal

アニメ『NO.6』
Blu-ray/DVD vol.1
絶賛発売中!

[原作] あさのあつこ
(YA! ENTERTAINMENT/講談社)
[漫画] 木乃ひのき

男とも女とも、
人とも妖しとも、
神とも魔とも……。
その歌声、その容姿。

NO.6
[ナンバーシックス]
第9巻

『NO.6』②巻、大ヒット発売中!

CHARACTERS キャラクターズ

沙布 さふ
紫苑に恋心を抱く幼なじみ。

火藍 からん
紫苑の母

力河 りきが
怪しい仕事を営む元新聞記者。

ネズミ
4年前、クロノスで紫苑に助けられた矯正施設から逃走した凶悪犯罪者…？

イヌカシ
犬を貸したり情報を売ったりして生きている。

紫苑 しおん
エリート→西ブロックに逃走。ネズミとともに暮らす。

STORY ストーリー

◎紫苑は聖都市NO.6の元エリート。ハチが死体を食い散らすという事件で、治安局に殺人の疑いで連行されかけたところを、4年前別れたきりのネズミに助けられ、西ブロックに逃げ延びた。
◎紫苑は突然の激痛で生死の境をさまよう。切開箇所からは、ハチのさなぎが出てきたのだ。
◎母から届いた手紙を手がかりに出かけた先で紫苑は、西ブロックでたくましく生きるイヌカシや、力河と出会う。
◎一方NO.6では、沙布が留学先から戻り、紫苑を探しに行こうとしたところ、治安局に拉致されてしまう。NO.6では何が起こっているのか!?

SOMEONE HAS GIVEN ME A JOB!
THIS IS MY FIRST JOB!

SO? WHAT'LL YOU DO?
GO AND WORK, OF COURSE!
THE LETTER ASKED ME TO, AFTER ALL.

NEZUMI!!
WHAT SHOULD I BRING WITH ME??
You don't need anything.
Probably some soap, huh?
STOP BOUNCING AROUND!
GEEZ, YOU'RE SIMPLE...
TRY NOT TO GET JERKED INTO AN ALLEY THIS TIME, WOULD YOU?
BE ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST EVERYONE, MAN OR WOMAN.

THAT REMINDS ME! I WANT TO SEE WHERE YOU WORK!
AND TO SEE YOU ON STAGE!
DON'T GET WORKED UP.
WOOF!

THOUGH I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S MUCH TO BE WORRIED ABOUT IF YOU'VE GOT THAT DOG WITH YOU
AT ANY RATE, I'LL TAG ALONG PART OF THE WAY
YOU HAVE WORK?
YUP

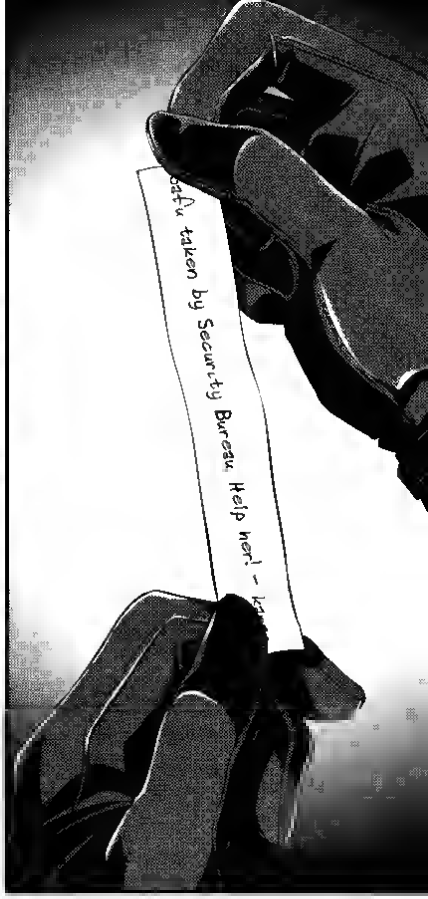
WOOF!
WELL, LET'S GO!
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE GOT MY FIRST JOB!

Allies and enemies.
Inside and outside the wall.
Love and hate.
Light and darkness.
Grip
I've told you that over and over...but it just doesn't sink in with you.
Didn't I tell you?
We'll always be in conflict.

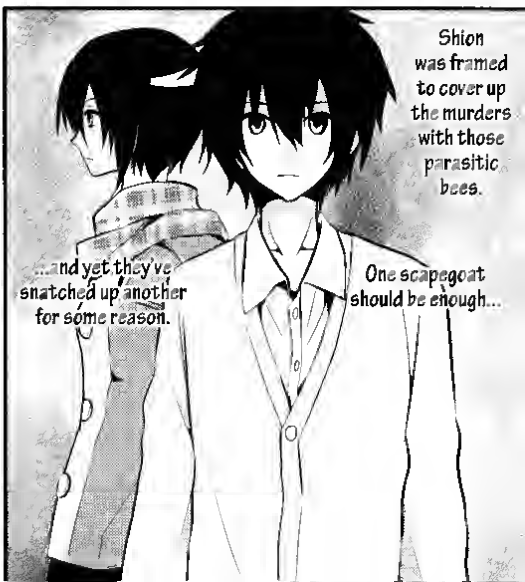
A response...huh
shake
GOOD WORK. YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK.
OH, YOU'RE BACK...
wobble
THROB
THROB THROB
SFX: BUZZING

THROB
THROB
THROB
SAFU... THAT GIRL, HUH?

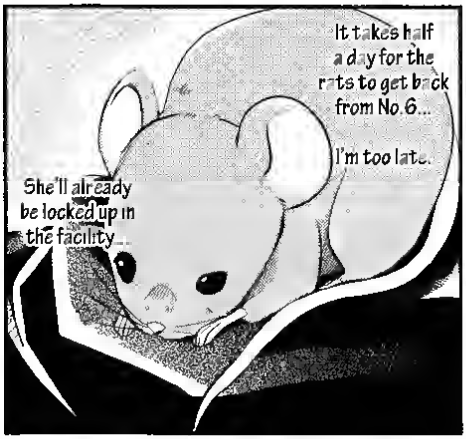
slump


Safu taken by Security Bureau. Help her! - Ka

If that girl's meant to be another scapegoat... She won't be heading to the Security Bureau.
THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY...


Shion was framed to cover up the murders with those parasitic bees.
...and yet they've snatched up another for some reason.
One scapegoat should be enough...

Why would they go out of their way to destroy these special course students they've spent time and money raising from childhood...?
Why...? For what purpose? What's about to start here...?



If I show Shion this note...he'll probably run to the Correctional Facility.

I don't even know this chick. It's none of my concern what happens to her.
But...if it were Shion who died...?
Not a damn thing will change even if I do nothing.

DRGH
I don't want to experience the torture of being the one to survive again.
SHIT, I CAN'T TAKE THIS
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM

'I don't want to lose him'...?
'Torture'...?

Can I cut myself loose...?
WHAT'S WRONG, NEZUMI?
I wonder... if I still have time...
cap

...IT'S NOTHING.
SLAM
IT FEELS LIKE THE CHILLY WEATHER FROM UP TO JUST A FEW DAYS AGO WAS A DREAM!
HEY, STOP SLACKING OFF!

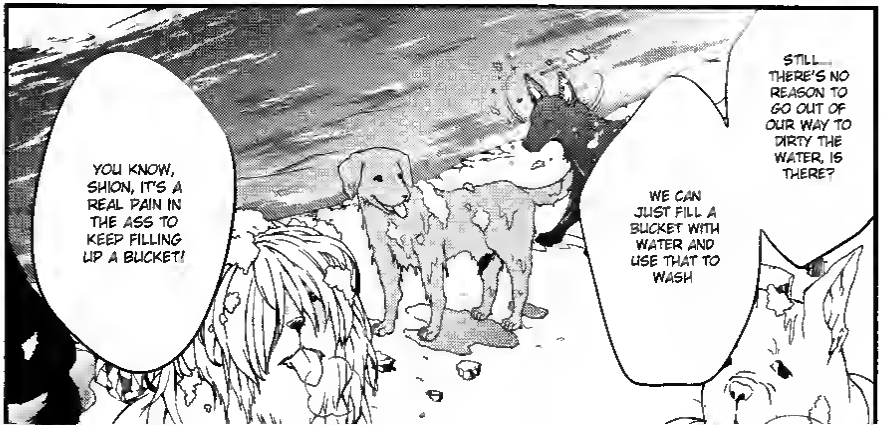
AH, SORRY!
IF YOU DON'T GET A MOVE ON, THE SUN'LL SET BEFORE YOU'RE EVEN HALF DONE!
THERE'S STILL A BUNCH OF DOGS LEFT!
SCRUB
SCRUB
PANT
PANT
STAND
YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH EFFORT INTO THE WASHING!
IT'S TAKING FOREVER TO WASH A SINGLE DOG!
WELL, THESE ARE THE DOGS YOU USE IN PLACE OF BLANKETS, RIGHT?
WE'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE THEY'RE CLEAN!

HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
IT'S NOT NICE TO CALL THEM DIRTY AND ALL
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT YOUR CUSTOMERS LIKE THAT
JUST HALF-ASS IT, IT'S FINE!
ALL MY CUSTOMERS ARE JUST AS DIRTY AS WILD DOGS ANYWAYS!
NO - YOU JUST HIRED ME TO WASH THE DOGS
achoo!
THEN THAT MAKES ME YOUR BOSS AND YOU MY EMPLOYEE
SO JUST SHUT UP AND DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.
SPLASH
wipe
WHAT, ARE YOU MY MOTHER, SHION?

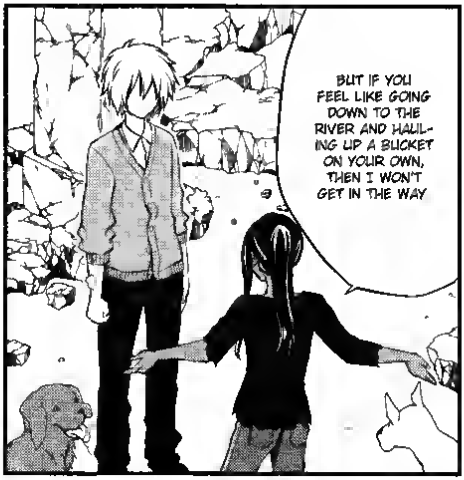
OH NO, INUKASHI!
ALL OF THE SOAP IS FLOWING INTO THE RIVER!

THIS IS WEST BLOCK, YOU KNOW
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT HERE ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT STRANGERS!

EVERYONE USES THAT RIVER FOR DRINKING WATER!
THE PEOPLE DOWNSTREAM WILL BE AFFECTED!


YOU KNOW, SHION, IT'S A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS TO KEEP FILLING UP A BUCKET!
WE CAN JUST FILL A BUCKET WITH WATER AND USE THAT TO WASH
STILL... THERE'S NO REASON TO GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO DIRTY THE WATER, IS THERE?

FINE THEN.
I'LL DO THAT.

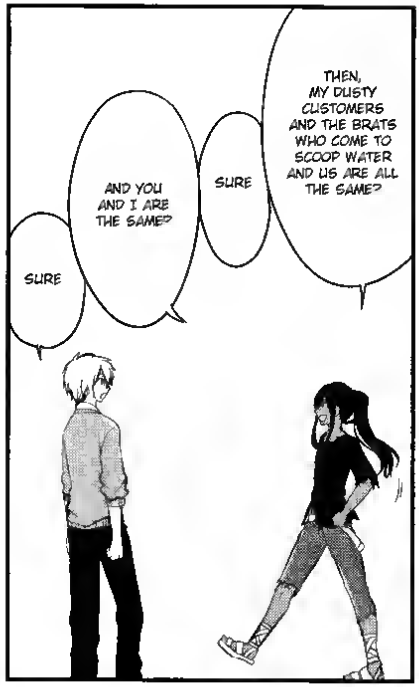

BUT IF YOU FEEL LIKE GOING DOWN TO THE RIVER AND HAUL-ING UP A BUCKET ON YOUR OWN, THEN I WON'T GET IN THE WAY

THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH!
I KNOW!
AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M ONLY PAY-ING YOU TO WASH THE DOGS!
I DON'T MIND!

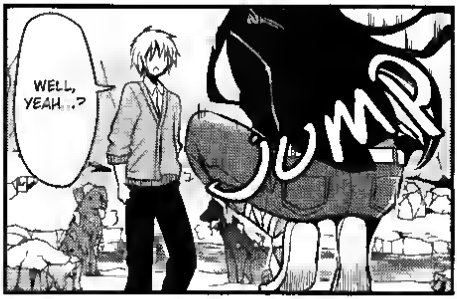
SHION.
SPLASH

.....

WHY DO I HAVE TO GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THE PEOPLE DOWN-STREAM?
WHY SHOULDN'T I BADMOUTH MY CUSTO-MERS?
...WHY?
WELL, THEY'RE THE SAME AS US, RIGHT?
.....
Heh...
SO I JUST...
THEY'RE HUMAN, JUST LIKE US, RIGHT?
THE SAME?


THEN, MY DUSTY CUSTOMERS AND THE BRATS WHO COME TO SCOOP WATER AND US ARE ALL THE SAME?
SURE
AND YOU AND I ARE THE SAME?
SURE

HUMAN LIKE US!!
YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT, SHION?!


WELL, YEAH...?
JUMP

STILL THINK WE'RE ALL THE SAME?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE RESIDENTS OF NO.6 AND US...?

.....
SHION.
I DO.
I CAN'T WRAP MY MIND AROUND WHY NEZUMI PUTS UP WITH YOU.
YOU'RE DONE FOR.
JUMP
HUH?

HE ONLY COMES AROUND WHEN HE WANTS INFORMATION!
I GIVE HIM INFORMATION, AND HE PAYS ME MONEY.
THAT'S ALL, NOTHING MORE

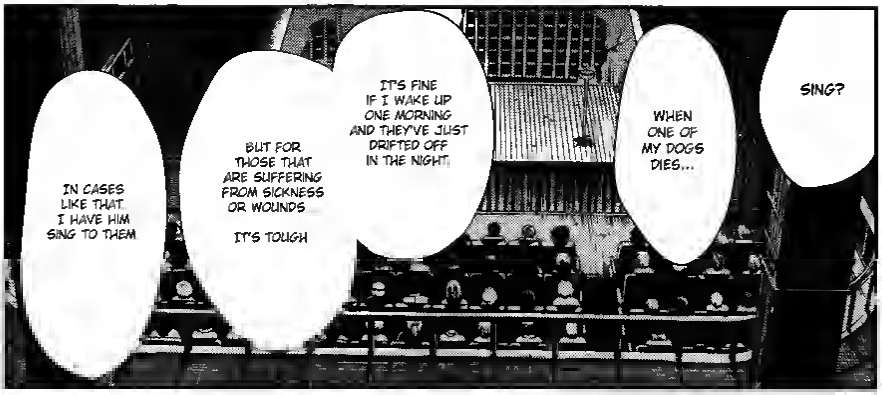
ARE YOU CLOSE WITH NEZUMI?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE FRIENDS, BUT...
FR--FRIENDS?!
WHAT A LOAD OF SHIT!

NAIVE IDIOTS WHO ARE ALL LIP-SERVICE...
HE C N'T STAND THOSE.

Ah!

hmph
SOMETIMES I HAVE HIM SING FOR ME.
AH, NO, IT'S...

THAT'S NOT IT?


SING?
WHEN ONE OF MY DOGS DIES...
IT'S FINE IF I WAKE UP ONE MORNING AND THEY'VE JUST DRIFTED OFF IN THE NIGHT.
BUT FOR THOSE THAT ARE SUFFERING FROM SICKNESS OR WOUNDS
IT'S TOUGH
IN CASES LIKE THAT, I HAVE HIM SING TO THEM

I DUNNO WHAT THE SONG'S CALLED...
BUT IT'S KIND OF LIKE...
HOW CAN I PUT IT... I'M NOT SURE, IT'S JUST...

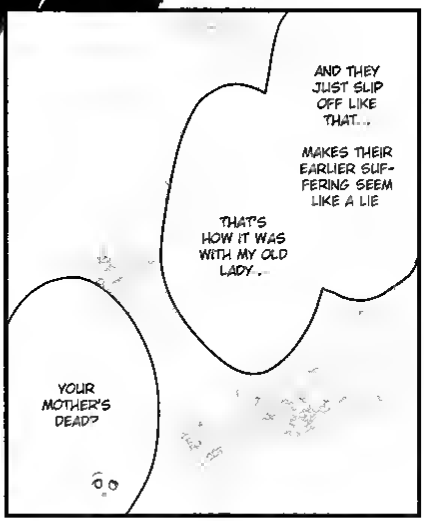
WHAT COULD YOU COMPARE IT TO?
HUH?
HIS SONG, HIS VOICE.
IF YOU WERE TO COMPARE IT TO SOMETHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE THEN?

The wind...

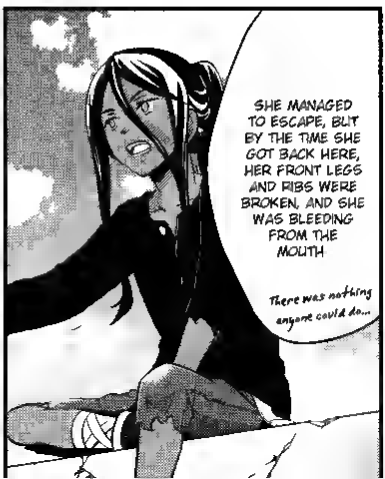
The wind... blowing from far away...
His song carries off souls that are struggling, unable to move on...
...he frees the soul from its mortal confines...
Like a wind scattering flowers...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN THEY'RE IN, ANY DOG THAT HEARS HIS VOICE WILL CLOSE THEIR EYES AND GROW QUIET.
BUT THAT QUIETNESS ONLY MEANS THEY'RE NO LONGER BREATHING

YUP! DONE IN BY ONE OF THOSE BRATS DOWNSTREAM YOU WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT!
BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF HER WITH AN OAK BRANCH FOR TRYING TO NAB A TINY BIT OF THEIR DINNER


AND THEY JUST SLIP OFF LIKE THAT...
MAKES THEIR EARLIER SUFFERING SEEM LIKE A LIE
THAT'S HOW IT WAS WITH MY OLD LADY.
YOUR MOTHER'S DEAD?

HER FRONT LEGS ?


SHE MANAGED TO ESCAPE, BUT BY THE TIME SHE GOT BACK HERE, HER FRONT LEGS AND RIBS WERE BROKEN, AND SHE WAS BLEEDING FROM THE MOUTH
There was nothing anyone could do...

YUP, SHE WAS A DOG.
YOU MADE A SERIOUSLY GOOFY FACE JUST NOW!
BWAHAHAHA!
NO, IT'S JUST
I WAS ABANDONED HERE AS A BABY.
THE OLD GUY WHO PICKED ME UP WAS AN ECCENTRIC WHO LIVED HERE WITH THE DOGS.
HE RAISED ME ALONG WITH THEM
MY MOM FED ME HER MILK, LICKED ME, AND SLEPT WITH ME
AND WHEN IT WAS COLD, SHE WARMED ME WITH MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS
"POOR THING, YOU'VE GOT NO FUR."
"BUT AT LEAST YOU'LL BE COOL IN THE SUMMER AND DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FLEAS," SHE'D SAY.

YOU THINK SO, SHION?
.....
SHE WAS A GOOD MOTHER.
YEAH, I GUESS SHE WAS A PRETTY NICE OLD LADY.
I STILL REMEMBER THE FEEL OF HER TONGUE.
SO WARM AND WET... I CAN'T FORGET IT FOR SOME REASON.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE GIFT OF A MEMORY.
HUH?
IT'S A MEMORY SHE LEFT YOU WITH, RIGHT?

I'LL BRING YOU SOME LUNCH
FINISH WASHING THAT BLACK ONE BY THE TIME I GET BACK

GIFT OF A MEMORY...
I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED IT THAT WAY

The old man who adopted and raised me isn't around anymore...
He just left one snowy day and never came back.

I had the dogs, though, so I wasn't lonely or anything...
...and I don't know anywhere else or anyone else

What am I gonna do when this building finally collapses into ruin?

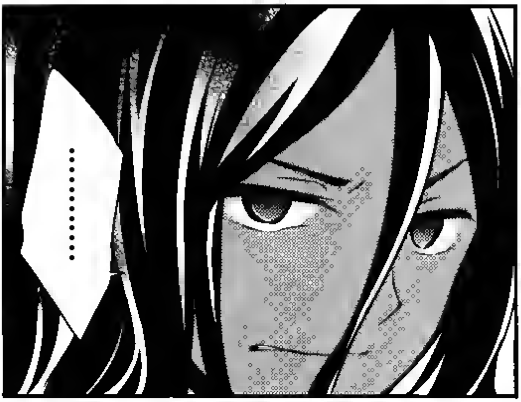
Right about when I caught the scent of another on him. Shion showed up.
Nezumi's probably the same...
He's always only given off his own scent
Why on earth would Nezumi hang around with a weirdo like him...?
!
NEZUMI...

DO YOU ALWAYS ENTER PEOPLE'S ROOMS WITHOUT KNOCKING?
DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER TEACH YOU ANY MANNERS?
I DID CALL OUT.
YOUR POOCH OVER THERE LET ME IN

WHAT'S WITH YOU, INUKASHI?
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY NICE TODAY. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL.

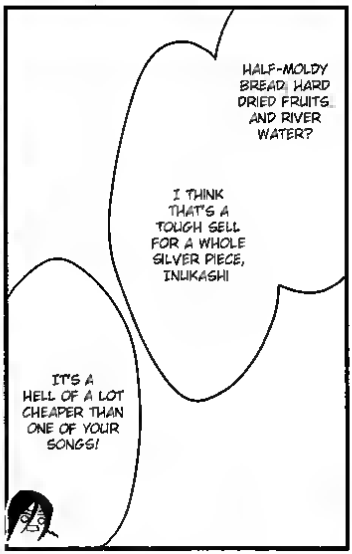
IF YOU'RE HERE TO PICK UP SHION, YOU'RE EARLY.
AT THAT RATE, HE WON'T BE DONE TIL SUNSET.
PICK HIM UP? HARDLY.

IF YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR SHION, THEN WHAT *ARE* YOU HERE FOR?


.....

CAN'T YOU SPARE SOME LUNCH? I'M FAMISHED
YOU MUST BE JOKING
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING THAT WOULD SUIT THE PALATE OF A STAR OF THE STAGE
THOUGH I'D BE HAPPY TO SHARE SOME BREAD AND FRUIT AND WATER FOR A SILVER PIECE

ARE YOU STILL PISSED AT ME FOR THAT??


HALF-MOLDY BREAD, HARD DRIED FRUITS, AND RIVER WATER?
I THINK THAT'S A TOUGH SELL FOR A WHOLE SILVER PIECE, INUKASHI
IT'S A HELL OF A LOT CHEAPER THAN ONE OF YOUR SONGS!

YOU STRIPPED ME OF EVERY LAST COIN WHEN MY MOM PASSED.
I NEARLY STARVED TO DEATH!
THAT'S WHY IT PISSES ME OFF!
YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ME!

I'VE SUNG OVER AND OVER FOR YOUR DOGS SINCE THEN!
OF COURSE!

SO? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU'RE TOO KIND
I'LL SEND YOU OFF WITH A NICE SONG OF FOOD
FEEL FREE TO CALL ME UP IF THAT HAPPENS AGAIN, THEN
LOSS
...A GOLD PIECE?
CLINK

I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.
YOU'RE TURNING DOWN A TWO-COIN JOB WITHOUT EVEN HEARING THE DETAILS—?
I'M TURNING IT DOWN BECAUSE IT'S A TWO-COIN JOB
IT REEKS OF A BAD IDEA
MORE SO, THAT IT'S COMING FROM YOU MEANS IT'S LIKE STICKING MY HAND INTO A NEST OF POISON VIPERS
I'VE GOT NO DESIRE TO DIE ANYTIME SOON.
THAT'S THE DEPOSIT.
YOU'LL GET ANOTHER WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED.
AREN'T WE EXTRAVAGANT...
...BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO PASS.
Hip

I'LL NEVER ASK YOU TO TAKE A JOB FOR ME AGAIN
AND YOU FEEL FREE TO NEVER CALL FOR ME AGAIN, NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'RE IN
...WELL THAT'S A PITY, BUT I DON'T SUPPOSE IT CAN BE HELPED.
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE SUFFERING ON THE VERGE OF DEATH, I WON'T GET INVOLVED
I WON'T COME EVEN IF YOU CALL FOR ME
WA--WAIT A MINUTE, NEZUMI!
I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU, AFTER ALL!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DYING WHILE SUFFERING?! THERE'S NO WAY THAT'LL HAPPEN!

AGE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH LIVING OUT HERE
THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN YOU'LL BITE IT.
AND HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU THINK WILL BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO DIE PEACEFULLY?

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU'RE SUFFERING. UNABLE TO PASS ON... I WON'T GET INVOLVED.
ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?

SO, INUKASHI... CAN YOU BE SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DRIFT OFF PEACEFULLY WITHOUT SUFFERING?

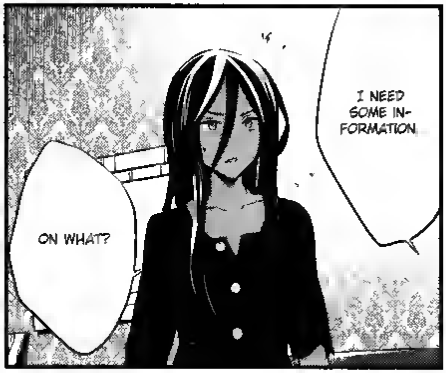
SOMEONE MIGHT STICK A KNIFE IN YOUR GUT TOMORROW FOR ALL YOU KNOW
OR MAYBE YOUR HEAD'LL GET SPLIT OPEN BY SOME FALLING DEBRIS
OR COME DOWN WITH SOME ILLNESS
CAN YOU BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT WON'T HAPPEN?

Heh.
...TELL ME THE DETAILS, FOR NOW.
SLUMP
THERE'S A GOOD BOY.
YOU'RE AFRAID TO DIE.
YOU'LL DO ANYTHING TO AVOID IT.

AND I KNOW THAT ABOUT YOU.
I HAVE THE ABILITY TO EASE YOUR PAIN.
N'T I?
ENOUGH!!
SLAM
YOU TWO-BIT, TWO-FACED THIRD-RATE ACTOR!
YOU'D BETTER NOT THINK THIS'LL ALWAYS WORK ON ME!
TAKING ADVAN-TAGE OF PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE WEAK...
JUST GO EAT SOME RAT POISON AND DIE!

THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.
The Correctional Facility... where Safu was taken...!

huff
FEEL BETTER, THEN?


I NEED SOME IN-FORMATION
ON WHAT?

september.strawberryline.org

Scans: amyused@livejournal

Translation: fencer-x@livejournal

Editing: fencer-x@livejournal, Aethereal

NO.6

トゥルーノウアス

©あさのあつこ・木乃ひのき/講談社 NOT FOR SALE

10 A Quiet Danger

NO.6 #3

THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY?!
CLICK
THAT PLACE CONTROLLED BY THE SECURITY BUREAU?!
ANY BIT OF INFORMATION YOU CAN GET ME WILL DO
pop
THIS IS A BLUEPRINT OF THE INSIDE SETUP OF THE FACILITY. BUT IT'S PRETTY OUTDATED
GATHER AS MUCH INTEL AS POSSIBLE ON THE NEWEST INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THE FACILITY AND FILL IN THE MISSING DATA HERE

IM-POS-SIBLE
WHY'S THAT?
'WHY'?! DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS!
WHEN THE HELL DID YOU GET THIS ANY-WAYS?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE BASE BLUEPRINTS!
DETAILS ON THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY'S SECURITY SYSTEM ARE TOP SECRET! YOU NEED SPECIAL CLEARANCE!!
EVERYTHING'S STORED ON COMPUTERS!
HOW THE HELL CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO GATHER ANY INTEL THAT WAY?

YOU NEED AN IC CARD TO PASS THAT SPECIAL GATE.
THERE'S NO WAY A WEST BLOCK PERSON IS GETTING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT PLACE UNLESS THEY'RE A PRISONER.
PLUS THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN EVEN GET IN OR OUT OF THE FACILITY ARE FROM INSIDE NO 6!
SO JUST
FOR US TO EVEN CONTACT ANYONE INSIDE THAT PLACE
IS IMPOSSIBLE
IT'S LIKE WE'RE NOT EVEN LIVING IN THE SAME WORLD!
THAT'S HOW IT IS!
WHAT?
INUKASH!

glance
...YOU SURE ARE CHATTY.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN PRONE TO BEING TALKATIVE WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING.
HIDDEN UNDERNEATH THAT FLAPPING TONGUE OF YOURS MOVING ABOUT LIKE A LEAF IN THE WIND...
...NO, IN DOING SO, YOU WIND UP REVEALING YOUR TRUE FEELINGS.
...THERE SITS A SECRET.
shudder
slide

OUCH!!
GRAB
YOU SELL SCRAPS FROM THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO SHOPS HERE IN WEST BLOCK
WHICH MEANS THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE INSIDE WHO SELL TO YOU
PUMP THEM FOR INFORMATION
WHAT THE HELL?!
DON'T YOU DARE UNDER-ESTIMATE ME INU-KASHI
YOU'RE USING YOUR DOGS TO RUN TRANSPORTS.

I'LL NEED CASH
TWO GOLD PIECES WON'T CUT IT.
clink
THIS IS ALL I'VE GOT RIGHT NOW.

INUKASHI, PLEASE HELP ME
I'M BEG-GING YOU.
IF YOU DO THIS FOR ME. THEN IN THE FUTURE IF YOU'RE EVER IN UN-BEARABLE PAIN...
...I SWEAR I'LL COME TO YOU.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, I'LL SING FOR YOU.

I PROMISE.
I'LL TAKE THE JOB
SFX: GRAB
.....

NEZUMI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR?
WITH THIS KIND OF CASH, YOU COULD LIVE IN THE LAP OF LUXURY
I AP-PRECIATE THIS

...THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH SHION RIGHT?

OH MY, AREN'T YOU MR. NICE GUY?
PUSHING THIS DAN-GEROUS JOB ON ME WHILE SAYING YOU DON'T WANT SHION IN-VOLVED?
...WHY WOULD YOU BRING UP SHION HERE?
HE'S NOT INVOLVED IN THIS AT ALL.

JOLT

SO EVEN SOMEONE LIKE YOU'LL GO SOFT WHEN YOU'RE LIVING WITH SOMEONE HUH?
YOU REALLY MUST CARE A LOT FOR THAT PASTY-HAIRED WEIRDO—
YOU'D BETTER SHUT YOUR FUCKING MOUTH.
ONE MORE WORD, AND YOU'LL NEVER SPEAK AGAIN.
...JUST TRY IT.
SFX: SLAM

SFX: GROWLING
BUT THESE GUYS WON'T TAKE IT LYING DOWN...
YIPE!
!?
IF YOU DON'T WANT ANY OF THE OTHERS TO SUFFER THE SAME FATE, CALL THEM OFF.
NEZUMI, YOU BAS-TARD--!!
flinch
MY--
MY DOGS!
tremble
SQUEAK
SFX: WHIP AROUND

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
INUKASHI!!
...STAND DOWN..
SFX: SLAM OPENS

jump
BUT I HEARD ONE OF THE DOGS YELP SO
YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE YOUR WORKPLACE WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, NEZUMI?

BECAUSE HE LIKES LISTENING TO ME READ HAMLET!
IT'S HIS NAME!
'HAMLET'?!
HAMLET! YOU'RE HERE TOO?

nod nod
RIGHT, HAMLET?
AND HE SEEMS TO LIKE IT!
BUT YOU WON'T NAME THEM!
DON'T GIVE MY RATS NAMES!

CRAVAT!
IT'S A FRIED PASTRY! HIS FUR'S THE SAME COLOR!
HOW RIDICULOUS
IF THAT ONE'S HAMLET, THEN WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER? OTHELLO? MACBETH?

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT FROM NERVES?
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO IRRITATED
MAYBE YOU'RE TIRED FROM THAT
WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT IRRITATES ME?!
GEEZ, I'M GOING HOME. I GET A HEADACHE WHENEVER I TALK TO YOU.

ANYWAYS, YOU JUST--
SHOCK
TURN

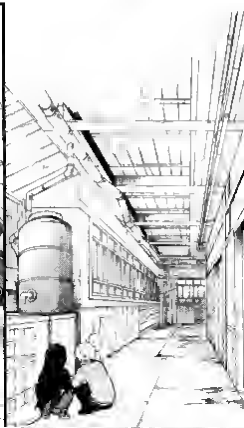
INUKASHI, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DOG?
YOUR RAT GOT HIM
RAT?

Rale

HIS HEARTBEAT IS REGULAR AND HE'S NOT VOMITING
SERIOUSLY?! HE'S NOT GONNA DIE OR ANYTHING?
HE'LL BE FINE! LOOKS LIKE HE'S JUST NUMBED FROM DRUGS. LET'S GET HIM SOME FRESH WATER

IF YOU LET YOURSELF GET FOOLED BY THAT PRETTY FACE AND ASSUME HE'S AS NICE AS YOUR MAMA, YOU'LL REGRET IT

lap
lap
lap
YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL TOO



I DON'T THINK OF HIM AS MY MOTHER, BUT HE IS KIND
spin
spin
IDIOT!
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY BEING FOOLED!
YOU'RE JUST TOO AIR-HEADED TO UNDER-STAND HOW COLD-HEARTED HE IS!
NEZUMI ISN'T COLD-HEARTED
HE'S SAVED ME SEVERAL TIMES OVER
WITHOUT HIM, I'M SURE I WOULDN'T STILL BE ALIVE TODAY
NEZUMI SAVED A TOTAL STRANGER?
WITHOUT ASKING FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN?!
NOT A THING
...HEY, SHION

Really...?

BECAUSE IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HIM
HE NEVER SHOWS EMOTION LIKE THAT...

DO YOU TWO ALWAYS SNIPE BACK AND FORTH AT EACH OTHER LIKE BEFORE?
HUH? OH, I GUESS SO... WHY?

IS THIS DOG ONE OF YOUR SIBLINGS BY ANY CHANCE?
YEAH... HOW'D YOU KNOW?

So this guy's your Achilles heel, huh?

HMM, I JUST FELT IT
HIS EYES ARE REALLY INTELLIGENT AND COMPASSIONATE
IT FIT THE IMAGE I GOT OF YOUR MOTHER WHEN YOU SPOKE OF HER
SHION.
YOU NEVER LAUGHED AT ME
HUH?
SHOCK
ONLY YOU AND...
YOU LISTENED TO ME WHEN I SPOKE ABOUT HER NEVER MADE FUN OF ME OR LAUGHED

No.6 Municipal Park
...ONLY YOU AND NEZUMI.
Unfortunately, for reasons of safety, only residents of Chronos are allowed beyond this point
Thank you for your understanding.
SAFU-
EXCUSE ME ?
Further, any attempt to enter the special residential area without approval will result in punishment per City Law article 203, paragraph 42. Unfortunately...

Smile
WOULD YOU MIND IF I SAT NEXT TO YOU?
OH, NOT AT ALL...
PLEASE DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME, BUT...
YOUR EXPRESSION WAS SO VERY SAD AND I JUST COULDN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE
OH, SO THAT'S WHY YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY...?
WELL... THANK YOU VERY MUCH... I SIMPLY HAVE SOMETHING ON MY MIND...
I CAN SYMPATHIZE. I MYSELF HAD A TIME WHEN I ALSO DEALT WITH TRYING SITUATIONS...

I'M SO HAPPY!
SURROUNDED BY MY CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN, AND BEING ABLE TO LIVE IN SUCH A WONDERFUL CITY...
BUT NOW I CAN TAKE TRUE JOY IN HAVING LIVED SO LONG...
I'M NOT SURE I AGREE
EH? WHAT'S THAT?
I OFTEN TELL MY GRAND-CHILDREN THIS
"YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN SUCH A WONDERFUL PLACE AS THIS!"

flutter
I'm sorry, I
AND I DON'T THINK THIS CITY IS A UTO--
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
AH! A CROW?!
!

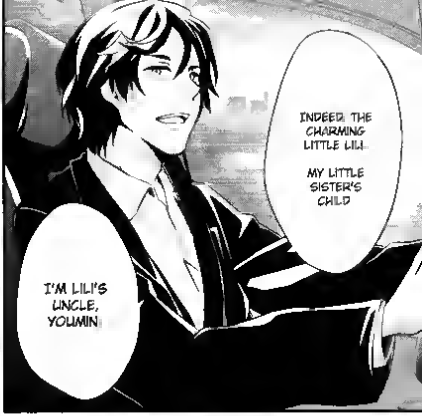
KARAN!
I'VE MISSED
YOU SO!

grab
HUH?
FORGIVE ME! I WAS COMPLETELY IN THE WRONG!
"I SWEAR I'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU EVER AGAIN."
shove
STOP IT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH FROM YOU!
I'LL LOVE ONLY YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...
WA--WAIT--!

KARAN! I SERIOUSLY LOVE YOU!
WE'RE THROUGH!
NEVER SHOW YOURSELF TO ME AGAIN!
OPEN...
GET IN.
WE NEED TO TALK.

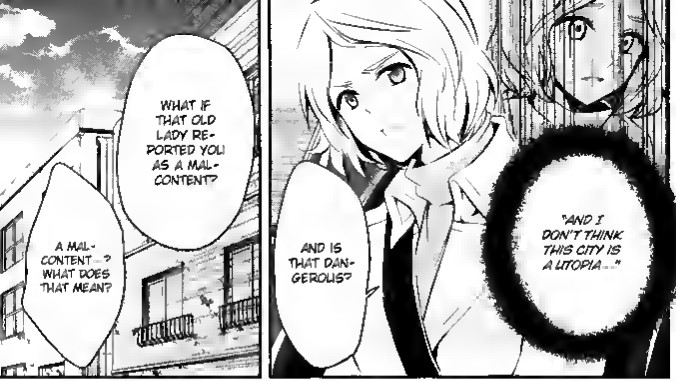
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
FEEL FREE
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
WHAT WAS WITH THAT WEIRD ACT?!
COME ON, IT WASN'T WEIRD
I THOUGHT I PLAYED MY PART RATHER CONVINCINGLY
THEN WHERE DID YOU LEARN MY NAME?
FROM MY NIECE. WHO HAPPENS TO BE A FAN OF YOUR MUFFINS
NIECE?
LILI?
realize...

I STILL DO! WHAT WAS THAT ACT BEFORE?
YOU THOUGHT I WAS SOME SHADY CHARACTER, DIDN'T YOU?


I'M LILI'S UNCLE, YOUMIN
INDEED, THE CHARMING LITTLE LILI.
MY LITTLE SISTER'S CHILD

IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE IN DANGER

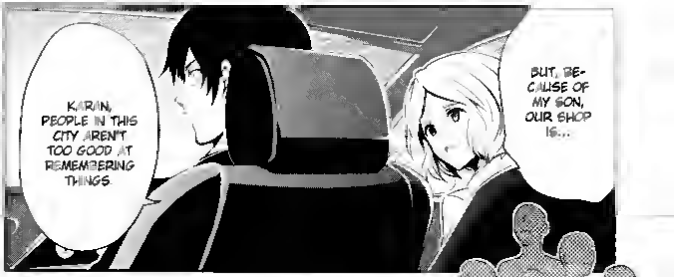
YOU WERE ABOUT TO VOICE YOUR DISCONTENT WITH THE CITY,
RIGHT?
DANGER?


"AND I DON'T THINK THIS CITY IS A UTOPIA..."
AND IS THAT DANGEROUS?
WHAT IF THAT OLD LADY REPORTED YOU AS A MALCONTENT?
A MALCONTENT...? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

ALL SHE'D HAVE TO DO IS ALERT THE AUTHORITIES THAT THERE'S A WOMAN SITTING ON A PARK BENCH MUTTERING HER GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE CITY...
YOU'RE SAYING SHE'D TURN ME IN?!

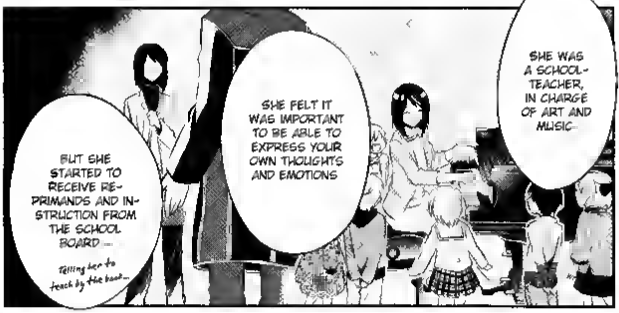
WITHIN THIS UTOPIA OF NO.6 EVERYONE MUST BE HAPPY ALL THE TIME.
THEY WON'T TOLERATE ANYONE WHO DWELLS ON THINGS OR IS TROUBLED OR ANXIOUS.

I GATHER INFORMATION ON ALL SORTS OF LITTLE PLEASURES FROM ALL AREAS OF THE CITY, EXCEPT FOR CHRONOS, AND COMPILE IT INTO A DIGITAL MAGAZINE
BY THE WAY I'D LIKE TO DO A REPORT ON YOUR PASTRIES
WILL YOU LET ME DO AN INTERVIEW?
EH?

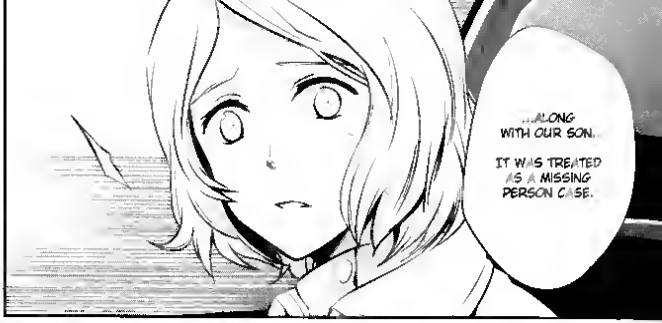

KARIN, PEOPLE IN THIS CITY AREN'T TOO GOOD AT REMEMBERING THINGS.
BUT, BECAUSE OF MY SON, OUR SHOP IS...

BUT THEIR DAYS PASS PEACEFULLY EVEN WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO DO THOSE THINGS THEY FIND DIFFICULT...
IT'S A FRIGHTENING PLACE, THIS CITY.
REMEMBERING, DOUBTING, EVEN THINKING...
THEY'RE BAD AT ALL OF THESE THINGS.
AND MORE SO, THEY'LL NEVER EVEN CONSIDER THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING ELSE UNDER THE SURFACE OF THAT MATTER...
THEY'LL IMMEDIATELY FORGET ABOUT EVEN THE GRAVEST OF MATTERS...

YOUMIN WHY ARE YOU SO CRITICAL OF THE CITY...?
THAT'S MY WIFE
SHE'S HOLDING MY SON

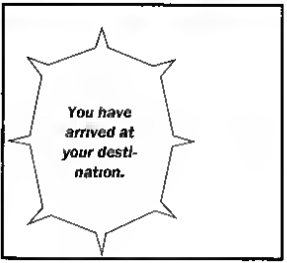

SHE WAS A SCHOOL-TEACHER, IN CHARGE OF ART AND MUSIC.
SHE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO EXPRESS YOUR OWN THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS
BUT SHE STARTED TO RECEIVE REPRIMANDS AND INSTRUCTION FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD — telling her to teach by the book...

NATURALLY, SHE RESISTED, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY MANAGED TO RUN HER OUT OF HER SCHOOL.
THEN, ONE DAY, SHE LEFT THE HOUSE...
AND NEVER CAME BACK.

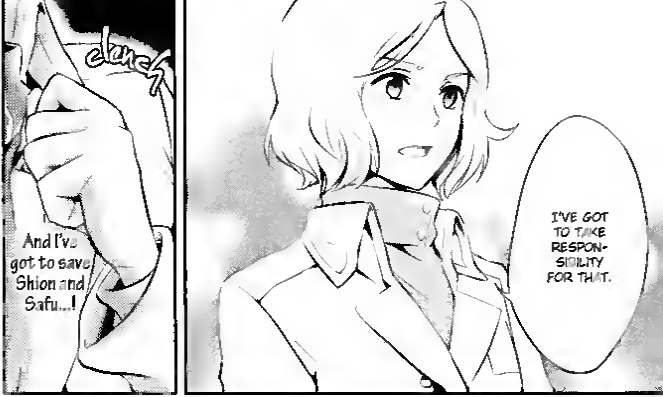

...ALONG WITH OUR SON.
IT WAS TREATED AS A MISSING PERSON CASE.

I'LL NEVER FORGET.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS

SORRY--I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
THAT WAS RUDE OF ME WHEN WE'VE ONLY JUST MET
OH, NO. THANK YOU FOR THE RIDE


You have arrived at your destination.

MA'AM!
AH, LIL!!
WHY'D YOU CLOSE THE SHOP TODAY? ARE YOU SICK?
EH, UNCLE YOU? DID YOU COME TO EAT DINNER AGIAN?
HEY NOW...
KARAN YOU CAN'T LOSE HOPE.
NO MATTER WHAT, YOU MUSTN'T GIVE UP
RIGHT...
I'VE LIVED A LONG TIME WITH THIS CITY
BUT IF THE RESULT OF THAT GROWTH IS NO 6 AS IT IS NOW...
THEN I'VE MADE SOME SORT OF TERRIBLE MIS-TAKE
I WON'T
I HAVE RESPONSI-BILITIES
RESPON-SIBILITIES?


clench
And I've got to save Shion and Safu...!
I'VE GOT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I JUST FELT LIKE A BUG—A BEE FLEW PAST ME...
A BEE?
IT MAY BE WARM, BUT THERE CAN'T BE ANY BEES STILL BUZZING ABOUT AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...

SFX. WHOOSH...

Inside No.6...
TRUE..
I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE TWILIGHT HOUSE!
AH! CONGRATULATIONS!
I'M SO RELIEVED! NOW I CAN LIVE THE REST OF MY YEARS IN PEACE!
I'M GRATEFUL TO BOTH GOD AND THE CITY
I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF GOING GRAY AND GETTING WRINKLES AND LINES IN MY FACE...
I'D RATHER DIE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS
UGH I SO DON'T WANT TO GROW OLD

dizzy
My body feels weak
What's wrong?
!!
NO WAY.. WHAT'S THIS?!
slow...
slow...
drop
drop
WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
ssssh

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11 Borderland

I WONDER IF THE CITY AUTHORITIES EVEN WANT TO CATCH ME...
THIS PLACE IS PRETTY CLOSE TO NO 6...
IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO CATCH ME IF THEY TRIED...
AH NOT JUST ME...
YOU'RE A FUGITIVE VC, RIGHT?
I WONDER WHY...

YOU'RE THAT DETRITUS THE CITY OOZED YOU OUT AND TOSSED YOU IN THE GARBAGE HEAP
THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO COME AND PICK YOU UP AGAIN
WEST BLOCK IS A TRASH HEAP A PLACE TO TOSS OUT JUNK AND DETRITUS
ZIP
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LIVE HERE, DIDN'T YOU?
YOUR WISH MIGHT JUST BE GRANTED
SO... AS LONG AS I'M HERE I'M SAFE?
UNTIL SPRING, AT LEAST
SPRING?

ONCE WINTER COMES, THE PARASITE BEES WILL GO INTO HIBERNATION.
AND THE EGGS THAT THEY LAID WILL GESTATE LIKE THAT UNTIL SPRING.
YOU MEAN *INSIDE* THE HOST?
EXACTLY.
THEN WHEN SPRING ARRIVES, THEY'LL ALL EMERGE AT ONCE AS ADULTS...
AND THE CITY WILL BE IN A PANIC FROM FEAR OF THE BEES...

SERUM?
USING YOUR OWN BLOOD?
I'VE GOT TO MAKE A SERUM BEFORE THAT HAPPENS

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IN A PLACE LIKE THIS WITH NOTHING DECENT TO USE?
OF COURSE
I DON'T EXPECT IT'LL BE PERFECT, BUT IT BEARS TRYING...
I'M GOING TO ASK RIKIGA-SAN FOR HELP
HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ME THE MOST BASIC TOOLS I'LL NEED
HE WON'T DO SHIT UNLESS THE PRICE IS RIGHT
HE'LL JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY IS ALL
YOU THINK SO...?
I SUPPOSE I COULD TRY TO CONVINCE HIM WE COULD TURN A PROFIT SOME--
TICK

SFX: KICK
SFX: CLATTER
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

SHOVE
SHION.

NOT GONNA RESIST?
SQUEEZE
NOPE
SQUEEEEEZE
DON'T FIGURE IT'LL DO ANY GOOD.
YOU SURE GIVE UP EASILY.
DON'T YOU CARE IF YOU LIVE OR DIE?
OF COURSE
'YOU'D NEVER KILL ME.'
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, RIGHT?
IT IS

DON'T GET SO FULL OF YOUR-SELF.
snap
Hmph.
WE WENT THROUGH THIS 4 YEARS AGO ALSO, DIDN'T WE?
AND I TOLD YOU THEN: "IF THIS WAS A KNIFE, YOU'D BE DEAD AL-READY."
YOU DID

I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU TRY AND MAKE A SERUM.
Press...
THAT'S NOT WHY I SAVED YOU!
'TIME'?
WHAT 'TIME'?
Drip...
DON'T DO UNNECESSARY SHIT.
SIT TIGHT IN THIS LITTLE HOLE UNTIL THE TIME COMES

UNTIL I *END* NO.6.
WHY DO YOU HATE IT SO MUCH?
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND NO 6?
grab
NEZUMI.

IS IT... REVENGE?
DO YOU WANT REVENGE ON NO 6...?
I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU.
I WANT TO KNOW, THOUGH!
I WANT TO KNOW WHY, NEZUMI!

HA HA HA HA!
YOU SOUND LIKE A BRAT THROWING A TANTRUM!
WELL THEN SHION
Ah!
IF I TELL YOU, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL HELP ME OUT?
HUH?
WE DON'T NEED ANY SERUM
WE CAN JUST USE THOSE PARASITE BEES AND WREAK HAVOC ON NO 6 FROM THE INSIDE OUT
ABSORBING NUTRIENTS FROM ITS SURROUNDINGS
...AND FATTENING UP ITS OWN, IT'S A REGULAR PARASITE CITY!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL THOSE WHO'VE LIVED CAREFREE LIVES FLEEING IN FEAR AND SELF-DESTRUCTING

I CAN'T
glance away

SO? WILL YOU HELP ME NOT SAVE THAT CITY, BUT RATHER DESTROY IT?

SHION, I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE THING
lift

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRES RESOLUTION
AND THAT'S HOW YOU ALWAYS ARE
YOU'LL FLAIL ABOUT SAYING YOU WANT TO KNOW, BUT YOU'RE NOT PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING
SMACK

NO.6 OR ME:
WHICH WILL
YOU CHOOSE?

BE A GOOD LITTLE LAMB AND WATCH THE HOUSE IF A SCARY WOLF SHOULD COME ALONG. THEN DON'T OPEN THE
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME!
TUSTle
MAMA'S OFF TO WORK NOW
SHIT, I'M LATE
MY MANAGER'S GONNA BE PISSED
tick
tick

YOU AL-
WAYS HAVE
TO TAKE
SIDES...
LOVE OR
HATE...
FRIEND OR
ENEMY...
INSIDE THE
WALL OR
OUTSIDE...

...WHAT
WAS
THAT?

I SAID
DON'T
LOOK
DOWN
ON ME
Kare

I CAN SEE
THINGS YOU
CAN'T
THAT
SORT OF
THING CAN
HAPPEN.

CAN'T YOU CONSIDER A THIRD OPTION?

EXACTLY!
step in...
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS DESTROY THE WALL!
JUST GET RID OF IT!

THIRD OPTION?

...IS IT THAT FUNNY?
snicker
INDEED SO FUNNY I COULD CRY
YOU'RE NOT JUST AN AIRHEAD, YOU'RE DOWNRIGHT DELUSIONAL!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING ON ABOUT "THIRD OPTION"?
THAT'S JUST LIP SERVICE!
HAHAHAH

I'M THROUGH WITH THIS.
NEZUMI, I'M BEING SERI--
EVEN IF YOU WERE SOME-HOW ABLE TO DESTORY THAT WALL, IT WON'T LEAVE BEHIND A PARADISE.
CONFUSION, CHAOS, STRIFE, LOOTING...
IT'LL BE HELL ON EARTH
YOU HAVE NO CLUE HOW OPPRESSED THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN...
...NOR HOW MANY LIVES HAVE BEEN SACRIFICED SO THAT CITY C.IN THRIVE.
BUT ONE MUST IN-EVITABLY DESTROY THE OTHER.

CLENCH
AT THE VERY LEAST I KNOW I'LL NEVER BE COME YOUR ENEMY.
WE WON'T KNOW UNLESS WE TRY...
NO MATTER WHAT EVEN IF IT SHOULD K...ME I... STAY BY YOUR SIDE.
IT'S DETERMINATION!
THAT'S JUST LIP SERVICE.

West Block Bazaar
"We know not what waits tomorrow but we've survived today."
"So we eat and we drink, that's everything here."
"We must enjoy what we can before we turn to dust."
"That's everything, everything here. Everything to me."
MISTER!

SHOVE
rustle
GIMME SOME BREAD?
RUN AWAY!
turn
UWAH!
stagger
SFX: SLAM
gaps
AMA-ZING...
SFX: DASH OFF

RATTLE
DON'T STAND AROUND GAWKING IN FRONT OF MY STORE!
AH, SORRY...
SHION!
RIKIGA-SAN!
SHE TOLD ME SIMILAR JUST THE OTHER DAY—
'DON'T DO THAT, RIKIGA-SAN! THINK OF YOUR BODY!'
Touched
YOU SHOULD CUT BACK ON THE ALCOHOL, IT'S BAD FOR YOUR BODY!
Phew
AWW, YOU ALWAYS SAY THE NICEST THINGS...
I FEEL LIKE KARAN'S GRIPING AT ME

STAAARE.
ARE YOU ALONE TODAY?
I'VE GOT THE DOG WITH ME
"THE OTHER DAY"...?
IN MY DREAMS!
glance
glance
GEEZ, WHAT'S WITH THE DOG...?
ANYWAYS, IS THAT ALL? NO ONE ELSE?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT NEZUMI?
grumble
grumble
BUT YOU WERE HIS FAN, RIGHT?
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE AS FOUL-MOUTHED AS HIM!
YEAH! THAT DAMN BRATTY, SARCASTIC ACTOR!

THAT'S BE-CAUSE HE ONLY EVER TELLS THE TRUTH...
I NEVER KNEW WHAT HE WAS LIKE UNDERNEATH!
NEVER WOULD'VE SUSPECTED HE WAS A RUDE LITTLE SHIT LIKE THAT!
OH! THAT REMINDS ME! RIKI-GA-SAN, I HAVE--
HEEEY, SHION! YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE HAVING A ROUGH TIME YOU CAN COME STAY WITH ME!
ずいっ
SFX: LEAN IN
SHACKING UP WITH A GUY LIKE EVE IT'D BE WEIRD IF YOU DIDN'T FIND IT ROUGH!
Waf...
I'LL FEED YOU AND GIVE YOU A WARM BED TO SLEEP IN, 'KAY?
AH, REALLY, IT'S FINE...!

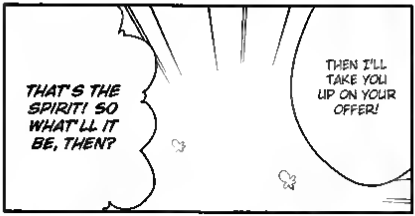
THERE'S A PERFECT STORE OVER HERE! COME ON NOW!
AAH!!

Grab
BUT KARAN WANTED YOU TO RELY ON ME DIDN'T SHE?!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN WEARING A COAT! YOU POOR THING!
WELL I'VE GOT THE BREAD AND MEAT WRAPPED IN MY COAT... SO...

OH MY! RIKIGA-SAN! HOW NICE!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A DRESS FOR A GIFT, I'VE JUST GOTTEN IN SOME LOVE-LY ITEMS...
brighten
NAH, DON'T NEED ANY WOMEN'S CLOTHES TO-DAY. SHOW US SOMETHING WARM FOR THIS KID HERE

WELCOME!

STARE
WHAT AN ADORABLE YOUNG MAN!
AND A LOVELY SHADE OF HAIR, TOO!
pull
RIKIGA-SAN REALLY, I DON'T NEED ANY WARM CLOTHES
WHAT'RE YOU GOING ON ABOUT? THE WINTERS HERE ARE ROUGH! YOU THINK YOU'LL LAST WITH THAT SKINNY BODY OF YOURS WITHOUT SOMETHING WARM?
BUT I CAN'T POSSIBLY LET YOU...
IT'S FINE! ANY SON OF KARAN'S IS LIKE MY OWN!


THAT'S THE SPIRIT! SO WHAT'LL IT BE, THEN?
THEN I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER!

YOU SURE? LOOKS AWFULLY BORING...
I'LL TAKE THIS! IT LOOKS WARM!

HE'S RIGHT, SIR!
WHAT'RE YOU SAY-ING?! YOU'LL FREEZE IN JUST A COAT!
OH NO! I CAN'T...
THEN LET'S GET YOU A FLASHY SWEATER!
YOU'RE YOUNG AFTER ALL!!

SHION? WHAT'S WRONG?
OH MY! I'M SORRY
THIS IS
HAVE YOU FOUND SOMETHING YOU LIKE?
OH BUT-- I'M AFRAID THAT'S A WOMEN'S JACKET...
WHERE DID YOU...
HM?

!?

WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS COAT?!
SHION!

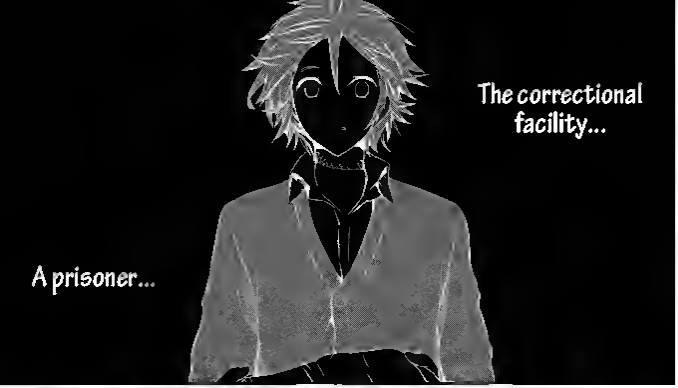
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?!

THIS IS... SAFU'S!
WHAT'S WRONG?! WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP?!
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT COAT?
'SAFU'?
SHE'S A FRIEND... A PRECIOUS ONE...
A FRIEND... FROM WHEN YOU LIVED IN NO 6?
YES
YOU SURE IT'S NOT A MISTAKE?
SFX. GRIT
Why
HEY SHION! WHAT SORT OF COAT WOULD YOU GIVE ME AS A PRESENT?
THIS COAT IS A PRESENT FROM MY GRANDMOTHER!
Why...?!

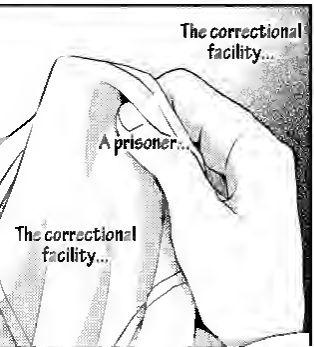
WHY?!
THINK IT OVER! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD AT SOLVING HARD RIDDLES!
HEY! HOW'D YOU COME BY THIS COAT?
WHAT'S IT MATTER TO YOU LOT HOW I GOT IT?!
PUSH
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS COAT?!
SHION! CALM DOWN!
OW!
SFX: SLAM

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, YOU BRUTE!
SHRIEK
SPIT IT OUT IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO BREAK YOUR ARM.
HOW DID YOU COME BY THIS COAT?
SQUEEZE
OWW!!
FROM THE WASTE FACILITY OF NO 6! I FOUND IT FLOATING IN THE WASTE WATER!
IT WAS TOSSED OUT AS GARBAGE, WHAT'S IT MATTER IF I PICK IT UP...
LIAR!!
SAFU LOVED THIS COAT!
SHE'D NEVER THROW IT AWAY!

I GOT IT FROM A BROKER.
BROKER?
INUKASHI!
INUKASHI— THEN THAT MEANS THIS CAME FROM THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY—
THAT WEIRD LITTLE BRAT THAT USES DOGS TO DO BUSINESS
THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY?!
YUP. I'VE HEARD THAT GUY'S SELLING OFF THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF THE PRISONERS THERE—


The correctional facility...
A prisoner...

SO THEN... SAFU'S IN THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY...?


The correctional facility...
A prisoner...
The correctional facility...

SEEMS SO... I SUPPOSE SHE WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY...
IT'S DEFINITELY POSSIBLE SHE'S BEING IMPRISONED THERE...

STEP
SHION!!
To be continued...

SPECIAL THANKS!

あさのあつこ先生

講談社ARIA編集部の皆様
NO.6関連部署の皆様
担当K形さん
toi8先生
アニメスタッフの皆様
NARTiSの皆様
銀杏杜撒

●作画協力
ホンマさん
メギさん
めぇ田さん
山本さん
のぐちさん(#5)
●仕上げ
つのっちさん
●3D
林完奎さん
●カラー背景
dominori氏(兄)

家族♡
その他ご協力くださった皆様

そしてそして読者の皆様！

ありがとうございました！

But you're "Eve", right?

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